

**I CLAIM AS MY INVENTION:**

1. A method for generating an intelligent printer data stream (IPDS), comprising the steps of:

combining into groups print data describing a plurality of pages to be printed by an IPDS command "DGB";

assigning a respective level to the groups whereby a specific operation number is respectively assigned in advance to the individual levels, the levels are respectively represented by a level number, and the operations are respectively represented by an operation number;

providing a linkage between all level numbers and all operation numbers such that the level numbers can unambiguously be assigned an operation number; and

determining by means of the linkage which operation is assigned to a specific level.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein all active levels are saved in a table.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the level number is an eight-digit binary number, the operation number is an n-digit binary number where n is smaller than eight, and the linkage is designed such that a specific level number is associated with the operation number that coincides with at least n predetermined digits of the level number.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein there are  $m$  operations, and the operation numbers assume only values  $l$  from 1 to  $m$ , where via the linkage the level number whose modulo of  $m$  plus 1 corresponds to the operation number associated with that operation number.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein frequently occurring operations are assigned to more levels than less frequently occurring operations.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein an active list is maintained in which the level numbers of all active levels are entered.

7. A software program for generating an intelligent printer data stream (IPDS) in a computer sending print data to a printer, comprising:

print data describing a plurality of pages to be printed being combined into groups by an IPDS command "DGB";

a level respectively assigned to the groups whereby a specific operation number is respectively assigned in advance to the individual levels, the levels being respectively represented by a level number, and the operations being respectively represented by an operation number;

a linkage between all level numbers and all operation numbers such that the level numbers are unambiguously assigned an operation number; and

the linkage determining which operation is assigned to a specific level.

8. The program according to claim 7 wherein the software program is saved on a machine-readable data medium.

9. A computer for generating an intelligent print data stream (IPDS) sent by the computer to a printer, comprising:

print data describing a plurality of pages to be printed being combined into groups by an IPDS command "DGB";

a level being respectively assigned to the groups whereby a specific operation number being respectively assigned in advance to the individual levels, the levels being respectively represented by a level number, and the operations being respectively represented by an operation number;

a linkage between all level numbers and all operation numbers such that the level numbers are unambiguously assigned an operation number; and

the linkage determining which operation is assigned to a specific level.

10. A computer for interpreting a data stream for a printer, comprising:

print data describing a plurality of pages to be printed being combined into groups by an IPDS command "DGB";

a level being respectively assigned to the groups whereby a specific operation number being respectively assigned in advance to the individual levels, the levels being respectively represented by a level number, and the operations being respectively represented by an operation number;

a linkage between all level numbers and all operation numbers such that the level numbers are unambiguously assigned an operation number; and the linkage determining which operation is assigned to a specific level.

11. The computer according to claim 10 wherein the computer is a controller to control at least one of a print device, a print pre-processing device, and a print post-processing device.

12. The computer according to claim 11 wherein the computer is mechanically separate from at least one of the print device, the print pre-processing device, and the print post-processing device.

13. A method for generating an intelligent printer data stream (IPDS), comprising the steps of:

combining into groups print data describing a plurality of pages to be printed by an IPDS command;

assigning a respective level to the groups whereby a specific operation number is respectively assigned to the individual levels, the levels are respectively represented by a level number, and the operations are respectively represented by an operation number;

providing a linkage between level numbers and operation numbers such that the level numbers can unambiguously be assigned an operation number; and

determining by means of the linkage which operation is assigned to a specific level.